

ABSTRACT

WA-I-484

MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. 97(100)

1767 (reset 1902)

Rocky Forge, Maryland

Public/private

Milestone No. 97(100) marks Mason and Dixon's 97th horizontal mile west of the northeast corner of Maryland, the beginning of their 230.228-mile West Line, later known as the Mason-Dixon Line, famous for its historical impact and innovative survey methods. It is an original milestone of 1767, quarried and carved in England, of oolitic limestone, and remains unaltered, though in only fair condition, at its original site, preliminarily surveyed in 1765, set two years later, then reset more securely in 1902 during the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary. It now stands about 13 inches above ground; measures about 11½ inches square; and is badly chipped along all edges and top corners, with most of the east side broken away, ^{and} very weathered. Little of the distinguishing embellishments remains: no fluting on the sides or low (formerly pyramidal) top; the Roman capital letter P facing the north (Pennsylvania) and its circle panel remain but the M facing Maryland on the south side is indistinct and circle panel is gone; the top planes and fluting are gone and the apex mutilated by the cementing-in of a USC&GS triangulation station metal disk (No. 97, 1939). On the national and state levels, No. 97(100) is significant primarily as one of 135 original monuments in the thematic group series of some 248 markers still defining the West Line. Locally, as one of 48 original monuments marking the present Washington/Franklin-Fulton county boundary (10 crownstones; 38 milestones), it is also significant as one of a diminishing number of objects and structures with a visually identifiable relationship to the colonial and Civil War heritage of these counties.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Magi No.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME BOUNDARY MARKERS ALONG THE MASON-DIXON LINE (THEMATIC GROUP)
 HISTORIC (Mason and Dixon's) West Line, 97th Mile Stone

AND/OR COMMON

Mason-Dixon Line: Milestone No. 97 (1900-03 Resurvey Monument No. 100)

2 LOCATION (not for publication)

STREET & NUMBER off north side of Millers Church Road

CITY, TOWN

Rocky Forge

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

MD: 6/PA: 9

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

MD: Washington/PA: Franklin

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS N/A	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER state boundary marker

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY (monument only; see Thematic Group NR nomination form)

NAME State of Maryland/Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION (see Thematic Group NR nomination form and surrounding property ownership list)

COURTHOUSE
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (also see Thematic Group NR nomination form)

TITLE

Washington County Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

WA-I-484 entered 2/24/81 ☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Milestone No. 97(100) marks Mason and Dixon's 97th horizontal mile west of the northeast corner of Maryland, the beginning of their 230.228-mile West Line. It is an original milestone of 1767, in fair condition, unaltered, and remains at its original site, preliminarily surveyed in 1765, monument set two years later, and then reset more securely in 1902 during the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary.

The area here is hilly, rural with widely scattered small farms, mostly open land with few woods except strands along Little Antietam Creek, winding nearby to the east and south. The site is within Election District 9 of Washington County, MD, and Washington Township of Franklin County, PA; about 2 miles north of the town of Leitersburg, MD; about 2½ miles southwest of the town of Waynesboro, PA; at the western edge of the scattered settlement called Rocky Forge, MD; at a point about 500 feet north of Millers Church Road and about 1200 feet east of Shoemaker Road (T366); near the top of a hill in back of the Belew house, against the north side of a wire fence separating the rolled open/cultivated field to the north and the small patch of deciduous woods of the Belew's to the south, about 2 feet west of the end of a short stretch of an old stone farm wall. It cannot be seen from any road, nor easily from closeby, and is protected by its obscurity as well as the fencing.

The milestone, as with all original Mason and Dixon West Line monuments, was quarried and carved in England, of oolitic limestone, originally measuring about 12 inches square by about 4½ feet long, with a low pyramidal top, and cut to stand as a post about 3 feet above ground, with the base left rough-cut for setting into the ground. The distinguishing embellishments are the vertical fluting with horizontally-fluted margins on all four sides, and the Roman capital letters P on the north side facing Pennsylvania and M on the south side facing Maryland, each V-sunk in the center of a plain shallow circle panel near the top. In 1902, this monument was presumably reset to stand about 1½ feet above ground, and now stands only about 13 inches high; and measures about 11½ inches square.

The letter P and circle panel on the north side remain fairly distinct, but no fluting or margins; most of the east side has been chipped away; the M is indistinct on the south side and no fluting or margins remain; no fluting or margins remain on the west side; and the top no longer has planes, fluting or an apex; **CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY** its corners and edges are very chipped and the USC&GS metal triangulation station disk (No. 97, 1939) has damaged the top by its being cemented in.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			boundary surveying	

SPECIFIC DATES 1767 (reset 1902) ~~REMODEL/ARCHITECT~~ Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon
SURVEYORS

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Milestone No. 97(100) is significant on the national and state levels primarily as one of a series of 135 original Mason and Dixon monuments in the thematic group series of some 248 markers still defining their 230.228-mile West Line, the boundary later known as the Mason-Dixon Line, famous for its historical impact and innovative survey methods. The site was preliminarily surveyed in 1765 and milestone set two years later, where it remains in place, although reset more securely in 1902 during the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary. Locally, as one of 48 original monuments marking the present Washington/Franklin-Fulton county boundary (10 crownstones; 38 milestones), No. 97(100) is also significant as one of a diminishing number of objects and structures with a visually identifiable relationship to the colonial and Civil War heritage of these counties.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (see Thematic Group National Register nomination form)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(see Thematic Group National Register nomination form)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATAACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acreQuadrangle name: Smithsburg (Maryland-Pennsylvania), USGS 7.5 minute series
(topographic), scale 1:24000

UTM reference: zone 18, easting 27573, northing 439979

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION N/A

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE Maryland COUNTY Washington

STATE Pennsylvania COUNTY Franklin

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Alice Martin (volunteer, Mason and Dixon's West Line boundary marker surveyor)

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust and Maryland Geological Survey

DATE

10/13/80 (site surveyed)

STREET & NUMBER

14308 Mount Avenue

TELEPHONE

301/472-2128

CITY OR TOWN

Phoenix

STATE

Maryland 21131

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

100) 1112 No. 97 Δ 0036

96: MASON & DIXON WEST LINE: MILESTONE 97(100)

DA-I-484

5463 / SW
(GREENCASTLE)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



SHITHS DURL QUADRANGLE
MARYLAND - PENNSYLVANIA
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
1953 PHOTO REV. 1971
SCALE: 1" = 2000'
0.5 MI. TO PA. 16

77°37'30"
39°45'

2 040 000 FEET (PA.)

1277000m E.

1278

316

35

99

1279

150 000 FEET
(PA.)

4403000m N

4402

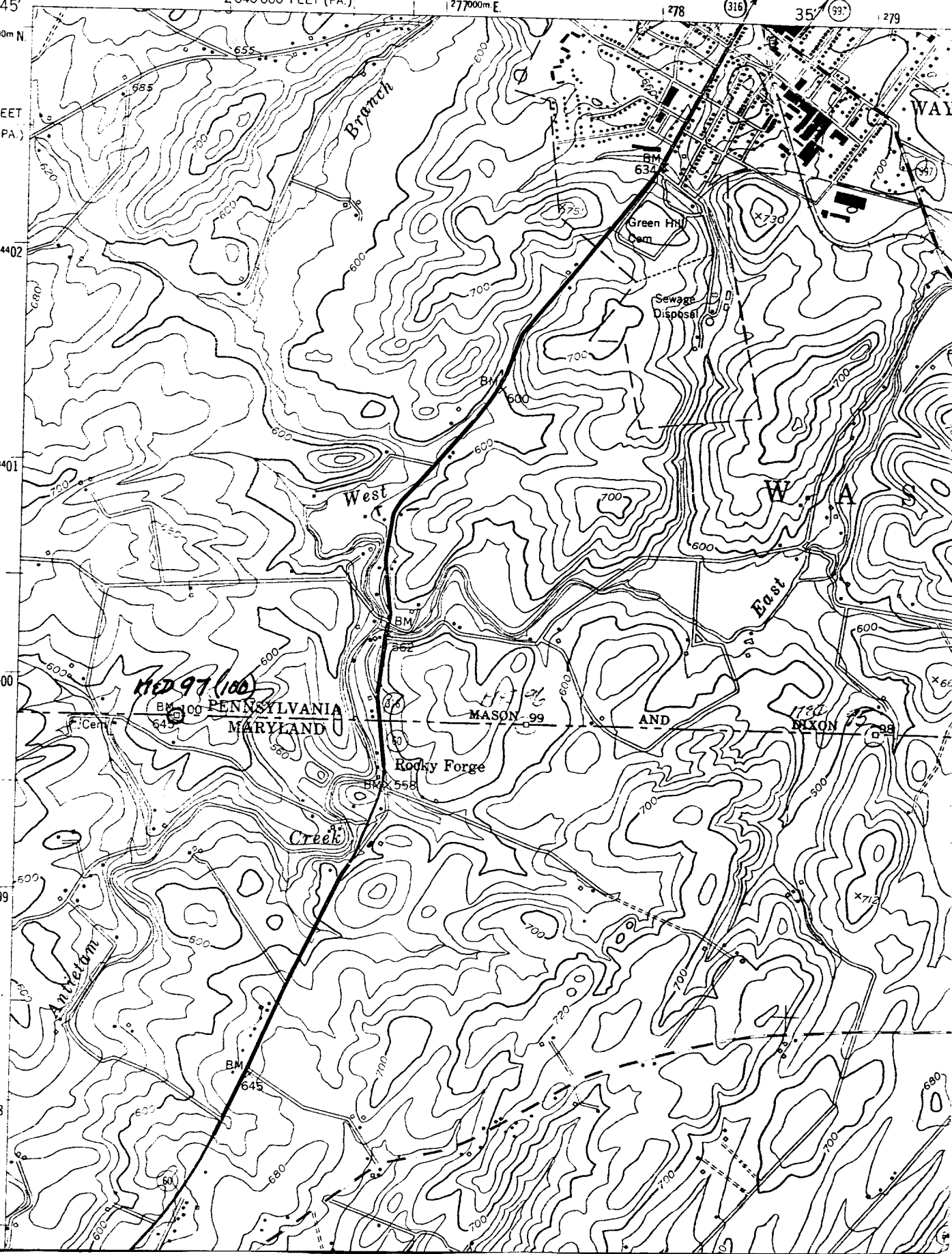
4401

4400

4399

42°30'

4398





I HAN

HAY 2 DIXON WEST LINE: MILESTONE 97 (100)
OFF N/S MILLER: CHURCH ROAD, LEITERSBURG, MD.
VICINITY

SE CORNER (M/-)

ORIGINAL (1767)

PHOTO: ALICE MARTIN (1980-23: 116) 6/13/80



22-3 1764

MASON EDWINA WESTON : MILESTONE 97 (100)
OFF NR MILLER SURCH RD. LEITERSDORF-177. 0001.

N/CORNER (1/-)

ORIGINAL (1767)

PHOTO ALICE MARTIN (1980.27. 5A) 12/13/80